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FROM : Amembassy JIDDA

DATE: May 19, 1964

SUBJECT : Joint Weeka No. 19

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POLITICAL/ECONOMIC

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3. U.S. Firms Participate in Development Program. During the last few weeks representatives of a number of American engineering and construction companies have visited Saudi Arabia at the invitation of the SAG to discuss various aspects of the country's development program. A few of these companies and the projects on which they have been invited to make proposals are:

Charles A. Maquire, Rhode Island - Highways, airports, and water and sewerage projects; Ralph M. Parsons Co., California - Water and sewerage projects, and airports; Welton Becket & Associates, California - Airports; Capitol Engineering Corp., Dillsburg, Pennsylvania - Highways; Globe Consultants, Chicago, Illinois - Highways; Ralph H. Burke, Inc., Chicago, Illinois - Airports. (UNCLASSIFIED)

4. Douglas Aircraft Company Team Visits Jidda. May 9 - 12, 1964, a two-man team from the Douglas Aircraft Company visited Jidda to discuss possible sales of DC-9 aircraft with key local officials. Saudi Arabian Airlines is expected to make a decision soon concerning the purchase of new aircraft and the DC-9 is believed to have an excellent chance. Meanwhile Saudi Airlines officials have submitted long questionnaire to Douglas company to elicit further information on DC-9 performance. (UNCLASSIFIED)

MILITARY

PSYCHOLOGICAL

1. Palestine. The tempo of information media coverage of the Palestine problem picked up considerably during the week under review, an emphasis pegged to the anniversary of the proclamation of the State of Israel. In addition to press and radio champion calls for a closing of Arab ranks, boycotts of foreign nations that deal with Israel; and preparation of the Arab Nation to seek redress for the Palestine "catastrophe" by military means if necessary, several newspaper articles laid the blame for the Arab debacle squarely at the door of "Western

Imperialism. Early in the week al-Madina's daily columnist 'Abd al-'Aziz Mu'mina attacked the U.S. for its enmity towards the Arabs and contrasted America's "pro-Imperialist, pro-Zionist" policy with the "pro-Arab" policy of the USSR as enunciated this week in Cairo by Russian Premier Khrushchev. Mu'mina warned that the U.S. thereby is causing the spread of communism in the Arab World. (UNCLASSIFIED)

3. Madayn Salih Trip. Pictures and a feature story on the journey undertaken last February by members of the Diplomatic Corps under the leadership of Ambassador Hart to the remarkable Nabatean remains at Madayn Salih, some 220 miles north of Madina, appeared in Jidda's daily al-Bilad May 12. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Comment: The story appeared at a most propitious time in that it should serve to stimulate continued SAG interest in and concern about the Kingdom's rich but virtually untapped archeological resources. Such coverage should serve to ease the way for the work of the Antiquities Department recently set up in the Ministry of Education. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

Nicholas G. Thacher
Nicholas G. Thacher
Counselor of Embassy

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